

*Funding is Part of the Stimulus Bill Recently Passed by Congress*

March 3, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that Teche Action Board has been awarded \$1,050,000 in federal funding to provide quality health care to more uninsured and underinsured Louisianians at their clinic in Franklin. The funding was authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the economic stimulus bill. Rep. Melancon was the only Louisiana member of the House of Representatives to vote in support of the bill.

**"Maintaining a healthy workforce is essential to growing our economy and strengthening our communities," said Rep. Melancon. "The need for quality health care doesn't stop when you lose your job and your insurance, and health centers like the Teche Action Clinic provide an important safety net for many struggling south Louisianians. At a time when health care costs are skyrocketing, I am pleased that one of the first priorities the stimulus money will address is access to affordable primary health care."**

The Teche Action Clinic provides primary care treatment to people within the community regardless of their ability to pay. Rep. Melancon [has supported federal funding](#) for the clinic in the past, including a \$580,645 award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2007 that allowed the clinic to hire additional physicians and clinical staff, giving them the capability to treat 2,700 more patients each year.

Health centers in Louisiana will receive awards totaling \$8,649,385 from the stimulus, allowing them to better provide primary health care to an estimated 48,870 uninsured and underinsured Louisianians. Charges for services are set according to income, and only nominal fees are collected from the neediest patients. Nationally, about 39% of health center patients have no health insurance at all.

The funding is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). To locate a health center near you, go online to Find a Health Center ( <http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/> ).

**A list of all health centers receiving stimulus funding is below.**

LA

New Orleans

St. Thomas Community Health Center, Inc.

1,300,000

LA

Winnfield

Winn Community Health Center, Inc.

1,300,000

LA

Franklin

Teche Action Board, Inc.

1,050,000

LA

Avondale

Jefferson Community Health Care Centers

1,300,000

LA

Lake Charles

Bayou Comprehensive Health Foundation, Ltd

1,300,000

LA

Opelousas

Southwest Louisiana Primary Health Care Ctr

1,099,385

LA

Luling

St. Charles Community Health Center, Inc.

1,300,000

## 7 TOTAL NEW ACCESS

**POINTS**

\$8,649,385

**Total**

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